Life Insurance—Insurable Interest—Assignments.—The right of a person to procure insurance on his own life and assign the policy to another who has no insurable interest in the life insured is sustained in Rylander *v.* Allen (Ga.), 6 L. R. A. (N. S.) 128, provided it be not done by way of cover for a wager policy.

Criminal Prosecution of Standard Oil Co.—The prosecution of the Standard Oil Co. for violation of the Elkins Act has resulted so far in the overruling by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois of the demurrers interposed by the defendant, inasmuch as the new rate law expressly repeals all laws in conflict with its provisions with the proviso that it shall not affect cases now pending in the courts of the United States. The Oil Company sought to escape prosecution for penalties incurred under the Elkins Law. Indictments were found subsequent to the enactment and approval the new rate law. The revised Statutes provide that the repeal any statute shall not have the effect to release any penalty, forfeiture or liability incurred under such statute unless the repealing act expressly so provides. Judge Landis holds that the repeal of parts of the Elkins Law conflicting with the new rate law did not extinguish penalties previously incurred under the former law. The contention that the section of the Revised Statutes referred to above was an unwarranted interference with the authority of succeeding congresses is dismissed by the court, as is also the contention that the saving clause of the rate bill refers only to causes now pending.

Definition of "Travelers."—The Supreme Court of Vermont, in Howrigan *v.* Bakersfield, 64 Atlantic Reporter, 1130, is called upon to pass upon the novel question as to whether a horse traveling on a highway can be held to be a traveler within the statute making towns liable for injuries to travelers. The court says that if the horse escaped into the highway without the owner's fault or negligence he cannot be considered as being at large in a legal sense, and that if he were following his natural instinct to return home he was a traveler on the highway.

Powers of Religious Societies.—The Supreme Court of Iowa has also recently passed upon religious societies. The case of State *v.* Amana Society, 109 Northwestern Reporter, 894, goes into the right of this association to engage in agricultural pursuits and in business and manufacturing enterprises. The state contended that the society was maintained for purely secular purposes, and contended that religion pertains to the spiritual belief and welfare of man as distinguished from his physical wants and necessities; that it relates to the ethics of life and to the hope and belief in immortality. The court concedes the correctness and theory of these contentions, but points out that practical religion may not be so completely separated from

the secular affairs of life, and cites numbers of religious sects whose tenets involved the holding of property in common. The court also overrules the contention that the organization is against public policy and un-American in its ideals, adding that, under the blessings of a free government, every citizen should be permitted to pursue that mode of life which is dictated by his own conscience.

Trade Secrets.—A manufacturer engaged in the manufacture of steel, in accordance with a secret process discovered by him, who sues a former employee and a competitor who has employed the employee, to restrain the employee from disclosing the secrets to the competitor, and to restrain the competitor from retaining the employee in its service, is, according to Taylor Iron and Steel Co. *v.* Nichols (N. J.) 65 Atlantic Reporter, 695, not required to disclose on the trial the secret process of his business. To require the manufacturer to prove such process would be destructive of his rights, the court holds. The character of the business, the impossibility of discovery by the analysis used, added to the ordinary secrecy observed by all manufacturers of goods of this class, would render almost hopeless the discovery of infringement, should the defendant take advantage of information thus acquired. In support of this position the court cites: Moxie Nerve Food Co. *v.* Beach, 35 Fed. 465, Eastman *v.* Reichenbach, 20 N. Y. S. 110, and Stokes Bros. Mfg. Co. *v.* Heller, 56 Fed. 297.

Injury from Electric Light Wire.—In Temple *v.* McComb City Electric Light & Power Co. (Miss.), 42 Southern Reporter, 874, an electric light company is held liable for injuries to a small boy received by coming in contact with an uninsulated wire while climbing a tree through which the wire passed. The tree in which the accident happened was a small oak tree, abounding in branches extending almost to the ground. As the light company had knowledge of the tree and what kind of a tree it was, the court held that it also knew what any person of practical common sense would know—that it was just the kind of a tree children might climb into, to play in the branches. The court remarks that the immemorial habit of small boys to climb little oak trees filled with abundant branches is one of which corporations stretching wires over such trees must take notice, and the court is going to safe-guard the right of small boys to climb such trees.

Census Returns as Evidence.—In the absence of official records of births, it is often difficult to legally prove the ages of persons. In Priddy *v.* Boice, 99 Southwestern Reporter, 1055, the Missouri Supreme Court gives its sanction to the use of properly certified copies of the United States census to prove the age of a person. These records are by law required to contain not only the sex, color, oc-